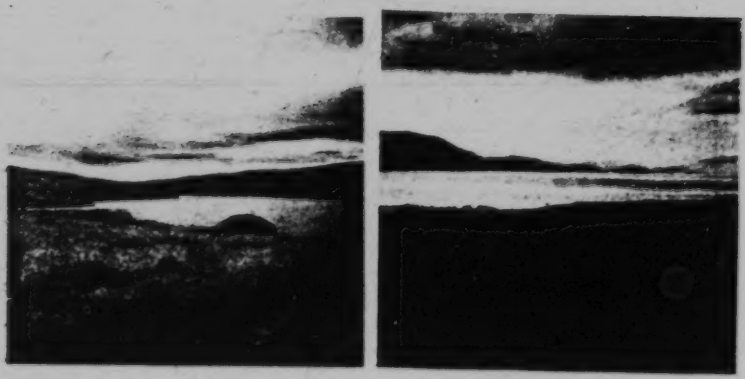
1: Vanhove--v G-5 (ca. 1935) 1941 FO42 Rundi FO42

[Facing p. 3]

Two aspects of Central Ruanda.



Lake Mohasi in Buganza.

Lake Mulera.
In the foreground, field of lava.
In the background, the Muhavura volcano.

(All taken by Author)

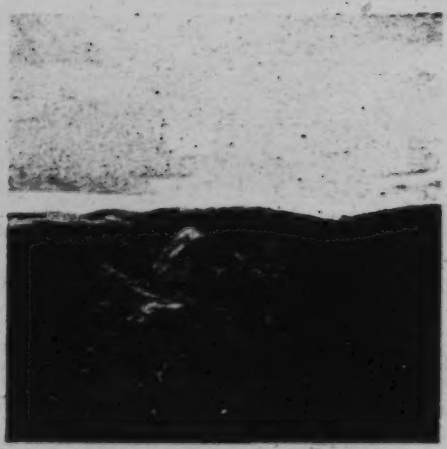
1:Vanhove--33A G-5 (ca. 1935) 1941 FO42 Rundi FO42

[opp. p. 40]

231

Type of cattle in Ruanda.

133



Vicinity of Kigali.
Crops covering the spurs of the hills and the valleys can be seen.

(Photo taken by Author)

● 133 When I now attempt to describe the inhabitants of Urundi, the Barundi (1), the following question must first be briefly

[104]
[194]

1. In the spelling of Barundi, Bahima, Batussi, Bahutu, Batwa, Baganda, Banjoro, Banjaruanda, Banjankole, etc., I am following the example of J. Czekanowski (Nos. 38 and 48). In this connection, it should be noted that the phonetic value of this b is often close to our w i.e., an English v and in correct phonetic terms might be more clearly transcribed by a v specially marked, but for the purpose of my study the common b corresponds more closely to the orthography of the tribes between the lakes. On the other hand, one must write Wanjamwesi, Wasukuma, Waschaschi, etc., since these tribes pronounce the w in all clarity.

answered: What does the country look like, the soil which supports and nourishes the people and upon which its economic, social, and political life takes place? Urundi is a mountainous country, the southern part of the interlacustrine region to which belong Ruanda in the north, the Kisiba states and Uha in the east, and in the south also Uha and part of Ujiji. On all sides Urundi has good natural boundaries: in the north the rivers Akanjaru and Kagera, in the east the long plateau sloping down toward Uha, in the south the upper course of the Malagarasi, in the west Lake Tanganyika and the Ruzizi River. To the north the region has a broad front toward Ruanda, while to the south it tapers off in wedge-shaped form to Lake Tanganyika.

In its geological structure Urundi is divided into two large regions whose landscapes differ. The larger eastern part is a section of the Paleozoic slate and quartzite plateau (Plate 26) probably belonging to the Cape formation. This plateau covers almost the entire interlacustrine region. The narrower, tapering

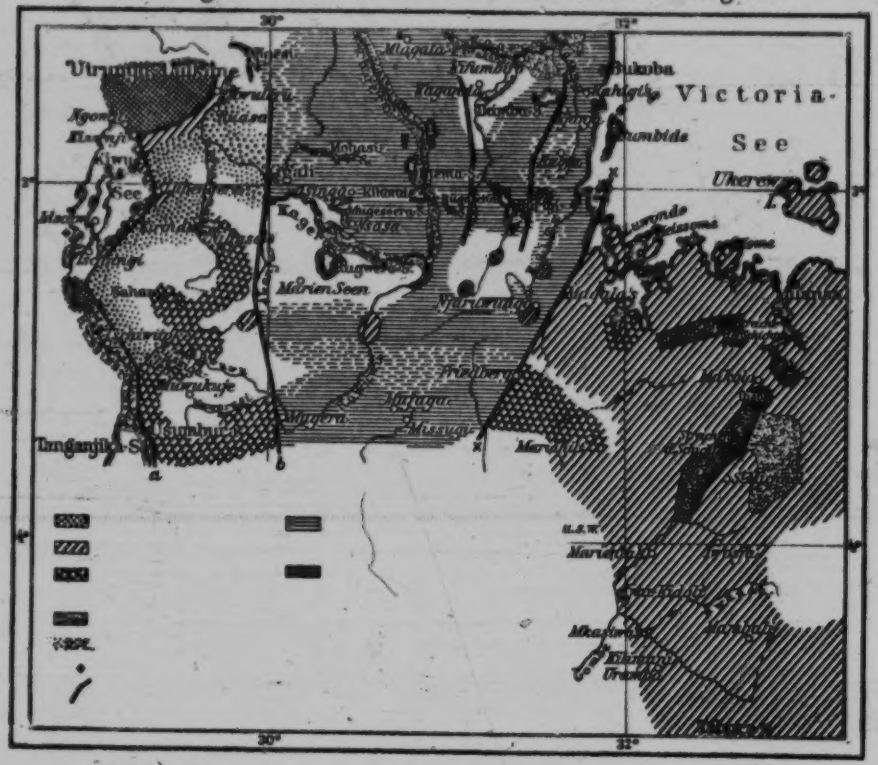
133 western part is the tail end of a range of Archeozoic folded mountains; it consists of crystalline slate with many granite intrusions and outcrops. The boundary between the two formations is a sharp threshold or drop in the terrain running north to south approximately at the longitude of the Mugera missionary station. Toward the east the slate-quartzite plateau also slopes down in an extended gradient at high altitude toward the gneiss and granite plateau of Unjamwesi which I consider an eroded escarpment. A huge tectonic fault scarp is found in the steep western slope of the highland toward the central African graben and toward Lake Tanganyika. Smaller fault depressions in several places extend over the country of Urundi; in fact, the entire interlacustrine region is rich in such tectonic faults. (Cf. the map on opposite page.)

[648] [4] Only a few times have determined enemies invaded Urundi across the high ridges and escarpments in the west and southeast, but this has happened more often from the flatter, more open fronts in the north and northeast. In the north are [101] the proud, warlike neighbors, the Ruanda, in the northeast the restless tribes of the Lake Victoria region: the Bassuwi, Basindja [Linza], Wassumbwa [Sumbwa], and others.

The slate-quartzite plateau of eastern Urundi has been leveled by erosion from meteorological forces over many thousands of years into a large peneplain with long, broad, low ridges (Plate 1a), while in the west the older mountain periphery still rises to a considerable altitude although it has also been worn down and rounded for the most part. The plateau region has an average altitude of 1,600-1,800 meters; the peripheral mountains rise to as high as 3,000 meters. More recent block movements renewed again the process of erosion which had been slowing down, so that in many regions the streams have carved recent, deep valleys into the plateau and the mountain ranges which then divided the region into a great number of large blocks and bastions. However, in still more recent times this process of erosion was again considerably slowed down by other developments. This is apparent from the fact that at present there are rapid streams only in the mountains of the west (Plate 1b), while in the plateau region of the east almost

[3]

Geological Sketch of the Middle Interlacustrine Region.



(Caption on following page.)

133

2: Meyer--4A K-5 (1911) 1916 FO42 Ruzdi FO42

[3] Caption to Map on Preceding Page.

133

Legend

Based on personal observations and collections (revised by K. Schlossmacher; cf. Hans Meyer, Ergebnisse einer Reise durch das Zwischenseengebiet Ostafrikas 1911 [Results of a Journey Through the Interlacustrine Region of East Africa in 1911], Berlin, 1913) and taking into account earlier publications by Stuhlmann, Baumann, Count von Goetzen, Kandt, Herrmann, Dantz, Stromer von Reichenbach, Gagel, Koert, and others.

Primary formation.

Granite rock.

Primary formation in combination with granites.

Loose and more recent surface layers (alluvia of rivers).

Probable extent of layers.

Hot springs (occurring on fissures).

Fissure lines (a) or fault scarps (b?); probably eroded escarpment.

Horizontal quartzes, slate, etc. Perhaps Cape formation.

Granites, covered by recent volcanic rock.

133 everywhere only sluggish waters run in the relatively recent valleys. To all appearances a general damming up of waters has taken place due to recent block movements which have caused an enormous growth of swamps in the valleys in Urundi, especially in the north and northeast, and in the entire interlacustrine region. Its main cause is insufficient drainage in the network of streams of the Kagera River on the one hand and in that of the Malagarasi on the other, since their level of erosion has apparently been raised by more recent block movements in both areas.

The two big rivers mentioned above divide Urundi into two hydrographic systems: the larger northern system drains into the Kagera, Lake Victoria, the Nile, and, therefore, into the Mediterranean; the smaller southern one into the Malagarasi, Lake Tanganyika, the Congo River, and, therefore, into the Atlantic Ocean.

132 Since Urundi is between 2 1/2 and 4 1/2 degrees south latitude, it has, like Ruanda, an equatorial climate with two rainy seasons and two dry seasons. The rains occur soon after the sun has reached its zenith in April and October. The amount of precipitation, approximately 1,250 millimeters in the north and less than 1,000 millimeters in the south, is not great for a tropical region, yet it is still plentiful and evenly distributed. The average annual temperature fluctuates about 20 degrees Centigrade. It is higher in the east, and in the mountains of the west the thermometer almost approaches zero in July. Day after day a vigorous east wind blows across the highlands. In the mornings there are often dense mists in the valleys.

137 The warm temperature, the amount of precipitation, and the distribution of rain would lead one to expect extended forest growth in Urundi, but this is not the case. Urundi is quite predominantly grassland (Plate 1a), pasture land at high altitude, like Ruanda. This is because the natives cut down the forest [311] to make fields and pastures. Toward the east in the direction of Uha where the country is lower, the grassland gradually turns into a tree and tussock grass steppe (Plate 3b). The grass grows higher and wilder in Urundi than in Ruanda since the grassy plains

133 361 By far the largest part of the country is a tableland which powerful erosion has dissected into innumerable long and short ridges with flattened tops and chains of hills with frequently deep and rather steep valley escarpments. The majority of the valleys are filled by papyrus swamps which can only be crossed in a few places. Hence it is not the valleys, as in our part of the world, but the high places that provide the most suitable settlement sites. The marshes in the valley bottoms, the hot stagnant air in the lowlands, the myriads of mosquitoes and gnats, and the valley slopes which in many places are very steep cause the people with their roads and settlements to resort to the free, airy plateaus and hill tops, while in most valleys the only fields are of such crops as require much moisture. In most areas of Urundi and Ruanda the valleys serve not to unite people but to separate them. In both regions the division of the people and the state into small communities is, therefore, determined by natural causes (see p. 89). For this reason also, the future opening up of the country by means of roads or railroads is rendered unusually difficult. The valleys in many parts of the eastern drier quartzite regions are much less swampy and less steep. There also, the surfaces of the plateau ridges and of the hill ranges are everywhere so stony and sterile due to weathered quartzite fragments (see Plate 2b) that the people avoid the high land and prefer to settle on the sides of valleys where the springs break out below the crevassed quartzite on the upper line of stratification of the almost impermeable argillite and where the argillaceous residual soil is more fertile and easier to till than the quartzite lying above.

161 This natural diversity among the areas is in itself an explanation of why the population is rather unevenly distributed over the country.

The government estimates the number of natives in Urundi at one and a half to two million ("Die deutschen Schutzgebiete 1912-13," Amtliche Jahresberichte ["The German Protectorates 1912-13," Official Annual Reports], pp. 8-9). This large margin is an indication that official censuses in the individual areas have so far not been possible. Both here and in Ruanda only the drawing up of tax registers will some day

161 furnish more accurate figures. According to my own and other recent estimates, the figure of two million is too high; one and a half million is probably closer to the truth. However, a few missionaries, among them Father van der Burgt, have estimated even more than two million. [18] There are relatively fewer Batussi in Urundi than in Ruanda; they constitute 162 563 hardly five per cent and probably only two or three per cent of the total population, i.e., 40,000-50,000 in Urundi. For them, too, van der Burgt assumes a much higher percentage: 15-20 per cent as against only five per cent for the Batwa. Apart from the mass of native Bahutu, there were in 1912-13 still about 2,500 other Negroes (Wasuaheli, Wanjamwesi, Manjema, and others) in the country, and, in addition, one or two dozen Arabs, two or three dozen Indians, and approximately five dozen Whites, half of them Germans and about 20 Frenchmen and Frenchwomen (missionaries).

On the whole Urundi and Uha are not by any means as 161 densely populated as Ruanda which has 72 inhabitants per square kilometer. [Fig. 1 appears here in original text.] The official estimate for 1912-13 gives an average of 51 inhabitants per square kilometer for Urundi (or 68, if one puts the total population at two million). On the whole the density of population increases from east to west. In the west the valleys and the broad ridges of the peripheral mountains are most densely populated; hence they are almost entirely cleared of timber. There, there are an estimated 50 to 60 people per square kilometer or, in other words, a density of population approximately equal to that of Portugal. Any comparison with Germany with its 120 inhabitants per square kilometer would be inappropriate since the area of utilizable land is relatively much smaller in Urundi than in Germany due to the many swampy valleys and quartzite wastes. The most densely populated parts are the 161 areas of granite, crystalline schist, mica schist, amphibolites, 133 diabases, etc., which comprise the more elevated western portion of Urundi where the rainfall is higher and which form fertile residual soils. Of the less elevated, large slate and

[Text continues on page 29]

161 quartzite areas adjoining to the east, the latter are the more
[133] sterile and, for this reason, less populated and cultivated. [19]
One observes the same phenomenon in Ruanda. In the more
[311] humid areas where bananas are grown, the banana plantations
cover large areas and thus give the illusion of a relatively dense
population, whereas in fact only a few huts are to be found in
them.

592 The Batussi and Bahutu families are rather rich in chil-
[842] dren, as in Ruanda. Individually the Batussi women are less
fertile than the Bahutu women, but in general there are seldom
fewer than three children in each family and in many cases
(among the Bahutu) between six and eight and correspondingly
more if the husband has several wives. Usually each married
couple lives with its children in a single hut. However, if
[595] there are many children or several wives, each mother lives
in a separate hut with her youngest children. Grandparents and
unmarried adults also have huts to themselves. Thus, there
are often between two and four residential huts and several huts
for grain and cattle in one kraal, or several fenced-in residential
huts plus outhouses are combined in one large homestead (see
Fig. 1).

361 The settlement pattern is that of individual establish-
ments, the fenced-in kraal, hamlet, courtyard (lugo, urugo).
Each homestead stands alone, surrounded by its fig trees and
its banana plantation if it is in the banana region (Plates
18, 21b). In most cases, however, there are several kraals
belonging to the extended family circle, situated next to each
other within calling distance so that village-like clusters
(ikisagara) are formed (see Fig. 2 and Plate 19a). Outside ex-
tend the fields. Of course, this is especially true for the
settlements of the Bahutu, for among the Batussi only the
poorest and lowest classes cultivate the fields. The kraals or
clusters of kraals belonging to the more prosperous Batussi are
scattered over the grassy pastures used by their cattle and sur-
rounded by high hedges of euphorbia and fig trees without
banana groves or fields. The distances between kraal clusters

2: Meyer--235 K-5 (1911) 1916 FO42 Rundi FO42

Plate 1

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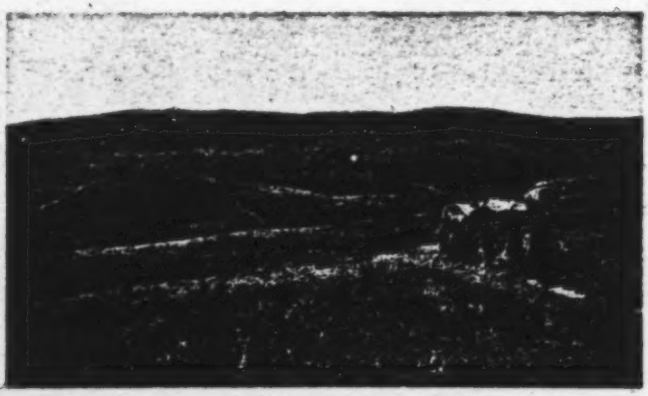

Highland Pasture in Southwest Urundi
(Photo. by Captain von Langenn-Steinkeller)

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Waterfall in the Eastern Peripheral Mountains of
Lake Tanganyika, West Urundi
(Photo. by J. M. van der Burgt)

Plate 2

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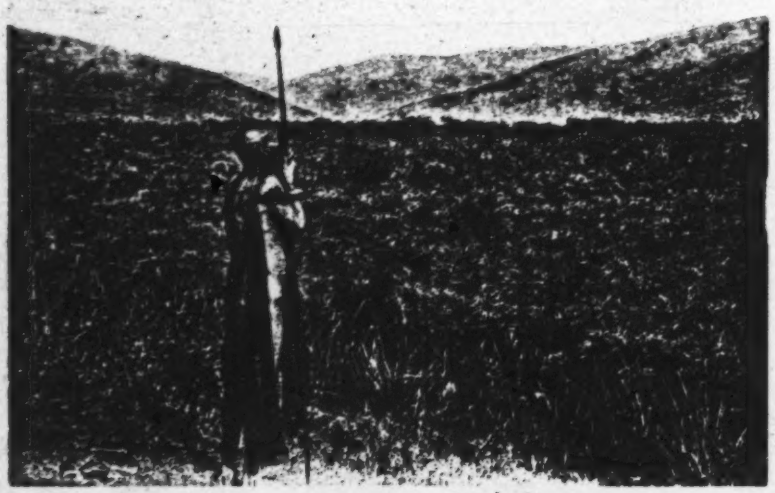

Valley Filled with Papyrus Swamp in Northwest Urundi
(Photo. by Hans Meyer, 1911)

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Quartzite Ridge East of Mujaga, East Urundi
(Photo. by Hans Meyer, 1911)

2: Meyer--237 K-5 (1911) 1916 FO42 Rundi FO42

Plate 3

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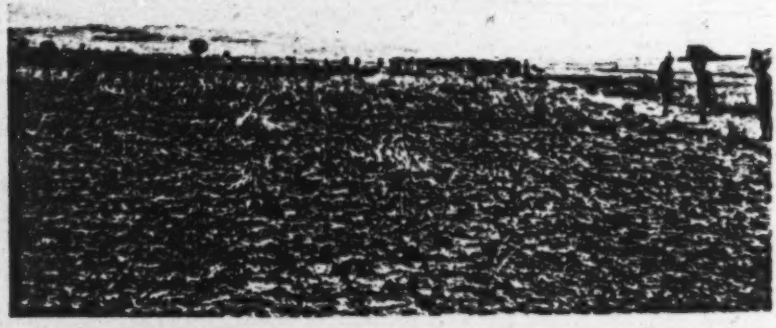
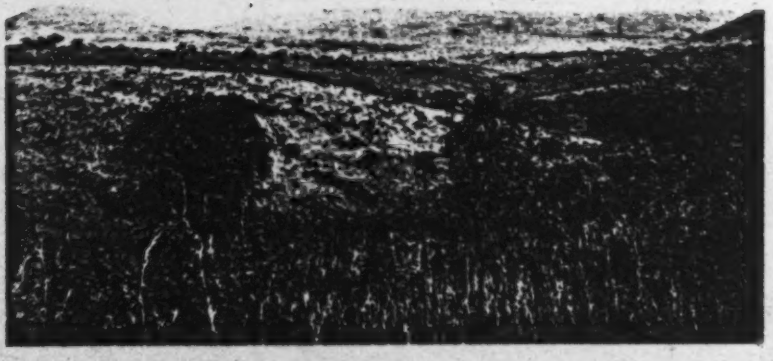
[482]



Grass Steppe in the Lower Ruzizi Valley, District of Bulinga
(Photo. by Hans Meyer, 1911)



Tree and Grass Steppe on the Kojongo River, Central Urundi
(Photo. by Hans Meyer, 1911)

Plate 5

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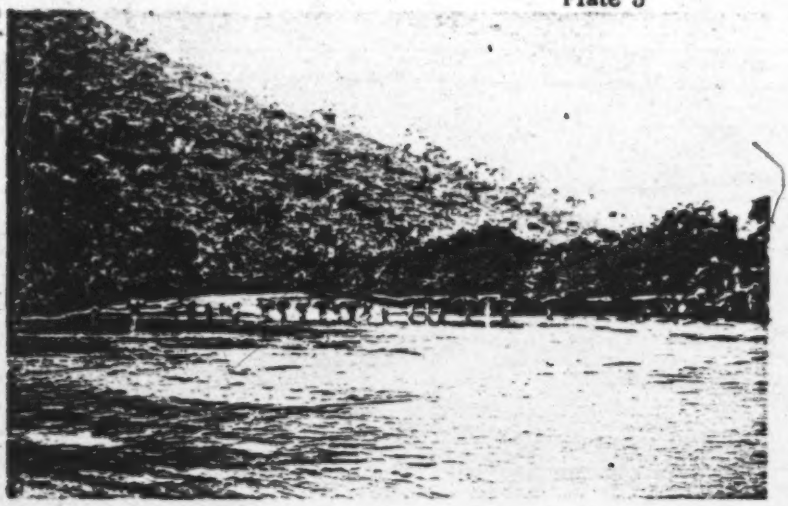

Ford in the Ruvuvu River East of Mugera
(Photo. by Hans Meyer, 1911)

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Crossing the Ruvuvu River near Kihansa
(Photo. by Hans Meyer, 1911)

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Plate 22

Laying out a Field after Burning Papyrus, Central Urundi
(Photo. by Hans Meyer, 1911)

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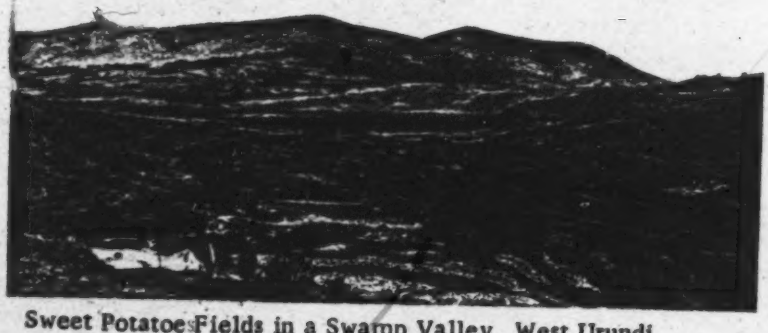

Sweet Potatoes Fields in a Swamp Valley, West Urundi
(Photo. by Hans Meyer, 1911)

Plate 26

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Punts on the North Shore of Lake Tanganyika
(Photo. by Hans Meyer, 1911)

Papyrus Raft on the Central Ruvuvu
(Photo. by Captain von Langenn-Steinkeller)

2: Meyer--290 K-5 (1911) 1916 FO42 Rundi FO42

Maps of the Central Interlacustrine Regions of East Africa

133

1. under 1,000 meters
2. 2,000 - 3,000 meters
3. 1,000 - 1,500 meters
4. 3,000 - 4,000 meters
5. 1,500 - 2,000 meters
6. 4,000 - 5,000 meters

[End map, upper left, in color]

2: Meyer--292 K-5 (1911) 1916 FO42 Rundi FO42

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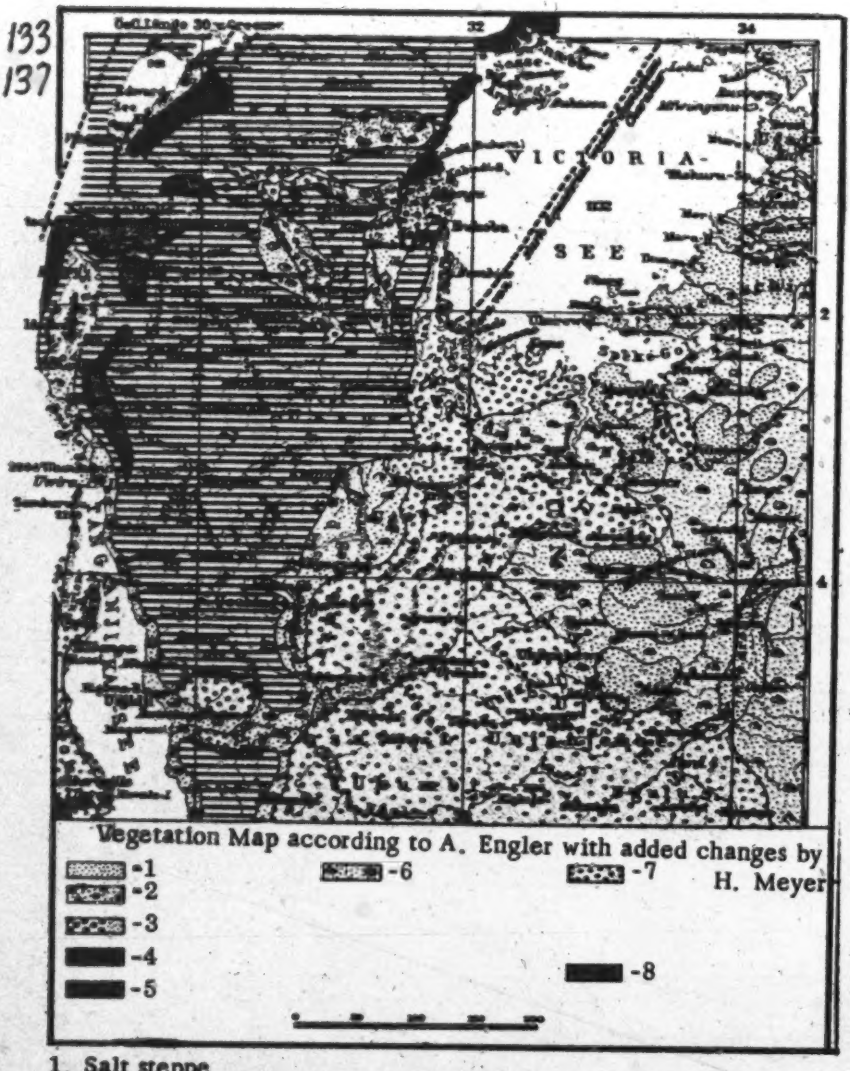

1. Salt steppe.
2. Alluvial plain with West African forms.
3. Alluvial plain, region with little rain, frequently parklike.
4. Tropical rain forest of plains and mountains.
5. Forest and high altitudes, or forest where fog is common.
6. Dry brushland, also mountain brush, partly non-deciduous forms, in some places with trees, and frequently turning into bush and bush and tree steppe.

[End map, lower left, in color]

(continued)

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7. Dry forest (steppe forest, Miombo forest) or tree steppe with sparse grass; a few types of trees predominate, the individual types often in clusters.

8. Grazing plateau and mountain steppe; besides mountain bushes, rock and loose rock vegetation of the highest regions.

800 *Urundi Administration* 1925—and Bishop (?) Gorju in several works dealing with Urundi, where he has been Vicar Apostolic. It lies N.E. of Tang. lake, 2 to 4 degrees S. of the Equator.

Ethnical conditions

563 The Urundi as well as the two neighbouring sultanates of Ruanda and Buha consist of three ethnical groups: (1) the tall, fine-featured, cattle-grazing Batutsi, of Hamitic stock, who constitute a ruling class of some fifty thousand; (2) the middle-sized, rough-featured, land-tilling Bahutu, the largest and main body of a population of over one and a half million; (3) the Pygmy hunting and pot-making Batwa, a mere handful of some thousands of outcasts.

I am reasonably satisfied that these three ethnical groups mix together more than one is generally inclined to believe: they rather seem to become social strata. At any rate there are impoverished Batutsi who till the land, Bahutu who possess cattle, and landless Batwa are not a frequent occurrence to-day. Many impoverished Batutsi have been considered as Bahutu, rich Bahutu as Batutsi. The reasons and theory I brought home were elaborated by Dr. Gerkens and seem to prove that each of the groups is of mingled stock.

Geographical conditions

133 The Urundi is a high country. The region between mountain to the west and the steppe to the east is a plateau, 5,000 feet high, often more, and almost completely without ligneous vegetation, except in the near proximity of habitations. Rivers and brooks have dug themselves deep into this plateau and their valleys have made it a country of more or less important hills, each of them with its own name. The bottom of the valleys is covered with swamps where papyrus grows unchecked (for native agriculture had not been successful there). The stony, grassy hill-tops are merely meadow-land. The cultivated belt [311] normally spreads on the hill-side, with the fenced cabins of the land-tillers in the middle of fields and banana-plantations. Only persons of rank dwell in the higher region.

311 Typical of Urundi scenery as seen from a favourable observation point are the three belts running along one another: below, the ashy green of the papyrus; above, brownish stones and light-coloured grass, sometimes with the rugo of a chief or of his deputy; in between the deep shining green of the banana-trees. [161] Though the population often reaches 350 per square mile, the habitations of most land-tillers remain invisible amidst the banana-trees where they are hidden, and only at the time when meals are prepared does the peacefully ascending smoke betray their presence there.

[P. 13 (A)]

5: Pages--iii M-5 (ca. 1925) 1933 FO42 Rundi FO42

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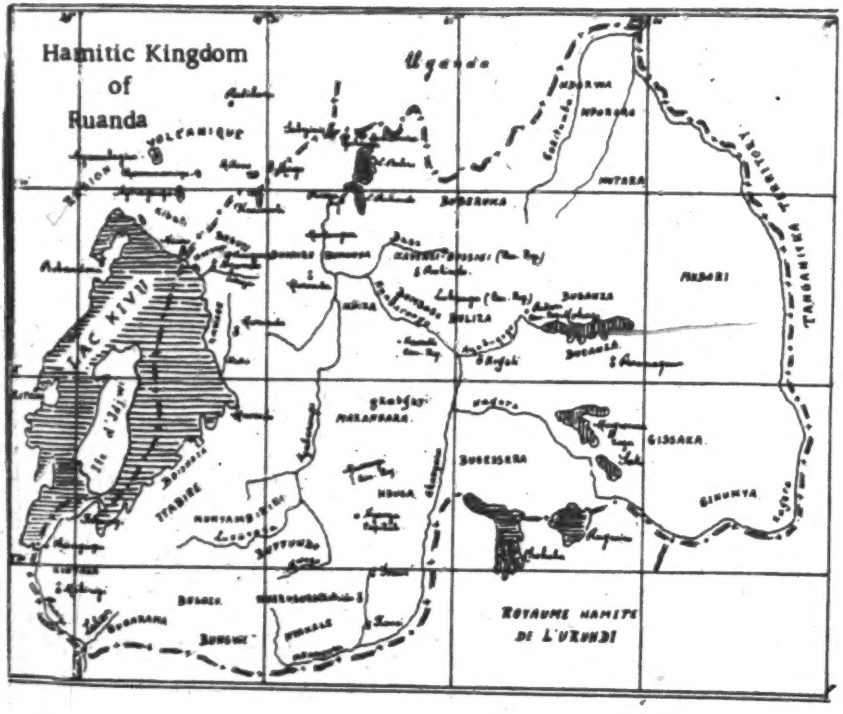

648 The kings of Ruanda also headed numerous expeditions into the Congo with no definite results other than pillage.

133 [137] As a whole, Ruanda is a high, rolling plateau. It was deforested to get rid of wild beasts and to supply pastures and fields for cultivation.

The northwest is a broken, picturesque, wooded region. There stands the chain of volcanoes, practically all of which are extinct today. /24/

The highest peaks are the Karisimbi (1), which is 4, 506 meters high; the Mikeno (2), or Mukuru mubi (3), which is 4, 380 meters high; the Muhabura (4), which is 4, 127 meters high; the Sabyinyo (5), which

[103 301] 1. Karisimbi, from the word amassimbi, a kind of white shell which the Batutsi of Urundi and Ruanda wear at the neck as an ornament. Because of its color it served to designate the snow that covers the summits, and by extension the highest mountain.

[103] 2. Mikeno, from the verb gukena, "to be bare."

[103] 3. Mukuru mubi, "a peak of difficult access."

[103 487] 4. Muhabura, from the verb guhabura, "to set on the right path," because this mountain serves as a landmark for travelers.

[103] 5. Sabyinyo, "big-toothed father," owing to its volcanic ridges.

133 is 3, 647 meters high; the Mago (6), which is 3, 711 meters high; the
103

6. It is found wrongfully designated under the name of Visoke on some maps. /Visoke/ is a derivation of the term Bisoko, which is the name of the region itself.

Gahinga (7), which is 3, 474 meters high; etc.

7. Gahinga, "the little summit."

Father Paul Barthélemy, the founder of the Nyundo mission in the Bugoyi, was the first to climb the Karisimbi. This is why the name of Barthelemy peak is given on some maps to the highest peak.

The Mikeno, which had until now been regarded as inaccessi-
133 ble, has had its impregnability violated by daring explorers (8). Each

8. During the summer of 1927, on July 25, Fathers Van Hoef and Depluet and Mr. and Mrs. Leonard succeeded in surmounting all obstacles by using a rope and a small ladder. They reached the southern peak, which is separated from the other by an abyss. The summit forms a sloping esplanade covered with volcanic gravel.

of its two slender points ends in an immense and nearly vertical rock, from 300 to 400 meters high.

The so-called "Plain of the Volcanoes" extends between the Rutchuru and Lake Kivu. It is strewn with blocks of lava and hundreds of craters of varying size.

Among the active volcanoes, let us mention the Nyiragongo (3, 496 meters) of perfectly classic shape. The /25/ main crater, with

● [133] a chimney opening at the bottom (1), has a diameter of about 400 meters.

1. In 1912 there were two juxtaposed chimneys. The wall that divided them disappeared in 1915.

The column of smoke, which was rather light between the years 1908 and 1926, thickened in January, 1927 and may be seen from afar.

Its neighbor to the right, the Nyamlagira (3, 056 meters), is more active. The mouth of the volcano is nearly 2, 000 meters in diameter.

Lava in fusion is constantly boiling in four or five small chimneys scattered along part of the old crater. It exudes fumaroles /sic/ and sulphurous vapors. The volcano called Mugunga or Ntsuro, not far from Lake Kivu, still emits some occasional vapors. Its eruption is of recent date, since it revived at the end of December, 1912.

Let us still mention the Bwana-Mahalage, which is nearly lost among blocks of lava. It erupted twice between 1903 and 1905, and since then has given no signs of life.

Its crater is now almost completely obstructed, and its diameter is insignificant.

In places where lava has begun to desintegrate, as happened [134] in the Bugoyi plain, which extends northeast of Lake Kivu, the soil is quite fertile.

The aspect of the land is imposing and pleasant to gaze at. The lake with its islands, the high peaks that block the horizon to the north, the plain strewn with craters, and the active volcanoes [132] make it an area unsurpassed in scenic value. The climate is temperate and the soil rich. It is volcanic soil that keeps disintegrating without ever being exhausted. One finds in the fields sorghum, peas, beans, sweet potatoes, and eleusine. Edible arum is rare and so is manioc, but potatoes and wheat are becoming increasingly widespread. The soils of Byahi and Riverere are most propitious to the

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134 cultivation of the famous plante médicée /Tr.: "Medici plant"/
241 (tobacco), the sale of which provides a living for a number of families. /26/

The vast Rwrere plain covers nearly half of the Bugoyi province.
133 Not a spring or brook is to be found there. The rain water immediately
312 drains beneath the lava, which is covered by a mere 50 or 60 centimeters of arable soil. The inhabitants are compelled to cover distances varying between 10 and 20 kilometers, round trip to draw water from the brooks of the Sebeya or the Mutura. During the rainy season, they carefully save the water that collects in the crags of rocks or in small moats dug by each person around his dwelling. The owners of banana groves use the water held by the thicker husks of the banana trees. These are split lengthwise with a knife, and produce water lightly mixed with potash. The natives get used to drinking this liquid without any repugnance.

The Bagoyi who live in the mountainous area are better off than the plains people as far as water is concerned.

133 The northern area, called Bigogo, consists entirely of pastures. It is inhabited by the herding Batutsi, who own numerous herds of cattle, the wealth of the country.

[137] These same lands of volcanic origin, gave birth to a beautiful forest where bamboo grows along with some rare species of trees. It spreads east of Kivu in a north-south direction.

[311] The natives, ever in search of fertile fields and charcoal, have made terrible inroads into it. This is why large gaps are to be found in it.

The central and eastern provinces, the Nduga, Bwana-Mkali, Gissaka, Buganza, etc., are made up of long rolling hills, nearly
[311] always separated by small valleys which are often transformed into marshes and which are very useful for summer planting.

The Buliza, Bussigi, and Luhanga are long plateaus where numerous herds of goats, sheep, and cows graze. These areas lie at an altitude of about 2, 200 meters. /27/

Ruanda also has lakes, the most important of which is Kivu, which is 120 kilometers long and from 40 to 50 kilometers wide.

133 Then there are in order of size: Mohazi in the Buganza, Mugessera and Sake in the Gissaka, Ruhondo (at an altitude of 1, 750 meters) and Bolero (at 1, 065 meters) in Mulera, and Karago in Lwankeri plain.

In the Bugessera there are several ponds: Murago, Mirayi, Kagomasi, Chohoha, Gaharwa, Kilimbi, etc. The small land of Bgiriri, which is adjacent to Gissaka toward the south, includes Birira /pond/.

The two rivers that wind through Ruanda are: the Nyabarongo /Nyawarongo/ (1) and the Akanyaru (2). The former, to which

[103] 1. Nyabarongo, from the verb kulongora, kulongoroka, "to go far away." This river was called thus because it flows throughout Ruanda.

[103] 2. Akanyaru, from the verb kunyaruka, "to rush." The speed of its flow gave rise to this name.

Mr. Kandt, the last German resident, gave the name of Caput Nili ("Source of the Nile") in a well-known book, is formed by the junction of two rivers, the Mwogo (3) and the Lukarara.

[823] 3. The violence of its flow and the volume of its waters during the rainy season occasion numerous tragic accidents, hence the expression: "Mwogo! Thou doth not kill men, thou only taketh away those who come (of their own accord) to meet death," Mwogo! ntiwich' abantu, wicha abakwizaniye.

[539]

●133 These two torrents have their source in the southwestern part of Ruanda. Their headwaters flow impetuously on a bed littered with rocks and pebbles.

Among the many subsidiaries of the Nyabarongo, let us mention in alphabetic order: the Base, Mukungwa (which comes out of Lake Ruhondo), Nyabugogo, which serves as an outlet for Lake Mohazi, etc.

The Akanyaru, whose basin is less extensive, also originates in the southwest and combines its waters with those of the Nyabarongo at the level of theBugessera. /28/

After they join, these two rivers change their name to Kagera (1). Under this new name they enter the Victoria into which they

[103] 1. Kagera. This word comes from the verb kugera, "to deepen."

The Kagera slowly wanders through the plain, and its lazy waters overflow [136] into large ponds and marshes infested with crocodiles and mosquitoes.

pour their yellow waters loaded with silt.

Lake Kivu receives only a small part of the waters of Ruanda. Its outlet is the Ruzizi River, which flows into /Lake/ Tanganyika after a tumultuous course of about 120 kilometers.

131 Ruanda, whose surface may be estimated at 30, 000 to 35, 000 161 square kilometers boasts a population that is believed to reach two million souls.

It is made up of three quite distinct ethnic groups: the Batutsi, 563 or Hamites, the Bahutu of the Bantu group, and the Batwa, or Negrillos (Pygmies).

141 The Batutsi, who are thought to be of Egyptian or Abyssinian origin, (2) are tall in stature. Some measure as much as 2 or even

000 2. From an ethnological point of view the physical appearance of the Ethiopian people is an exception in

671 theft, arson, and destruction of crops caused to a neighbor, grazing rights, the levying of taille /head tax/ and forced labor, etc. Culprits
[696] of high lineage and wealthy people often extricated themselves with money and innocent people sometimes payed for offenders, especially when false witnesses were suborned.

The Pit of the Bugessera

133 Among the various torture spots such as the swamp, called
823 Nkonde in the Buberuka, the Nshimbo swamp near Lukaza, the
681 Ruboneye swamp near Nyanza, the place called "Ficus-tree spot"
696 (ku Kivumu), certain rapids of the Akanyaru and Nyabarongo rivers, etc., it was the pit of the Bugessera that left the most evil memory. Its reputation is highly sinister, owing to the illustrious offenders who were tossed into it and also to the legends that circulate about this accursed place.

The pit is located in the Bugessera region, not far from one of Lwabugiri's ancient residences, which it is surprising to find in the middle of this deserted region.

The landscape is stark, even wild, and darkened by the memory of the tragic executions it witnessed. /382/

681 The pit is a sort of depression in a rocky area (ibuye ryasamye),
696 about three or four meters deep. It is more or less filled with stagnant
823 rain water according to the time of year, and it is half choked with mud (1). Clumps of trees of various kinds make islets of greenery and

1. The Blacks like to account for the peculiarities of rocks and boulders, whose shapes and cavities invite comparisons. They tend to attribute these formations to the influence of men or demigods. They gave the name of "Bayanga's little beer boat" (umuvule) to another depression located near the preceding one and which to their eyes had that appearance. All around

5: Pages--270 M-5 (ca. 1925) 1933 FO42 Rundi FO42

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High jump. Popular sport among the Batutsi.

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R. P. Van den Houdt

Lake Kivu, near Gisenyi.

5: Pages--271 M-5 (ca. 1925) 1933 FO42 Rundi FO42

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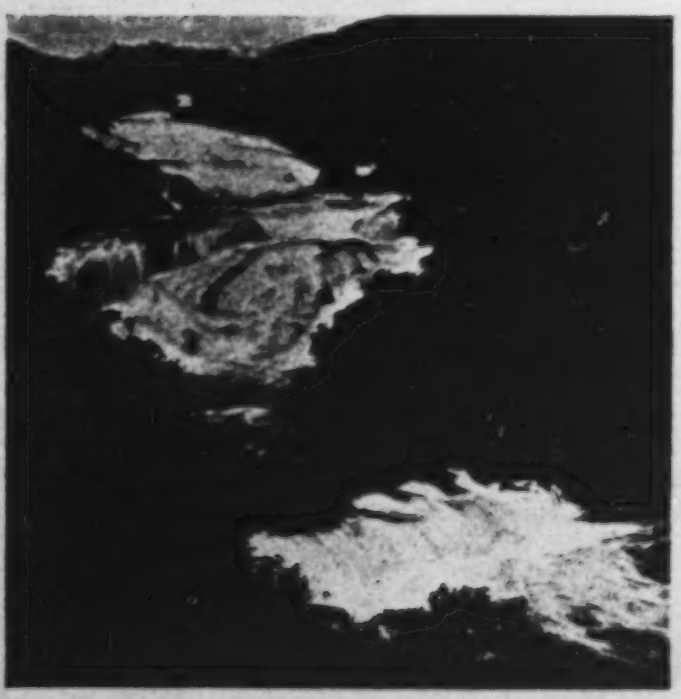
An arm of Lake Mugessera.



Rapids in the Mukungwu in the Mulera region.

5: Pagès--272 M-5 (ca. 1925) 1933 FO42 Rundi FO42

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On the shores of the Nzabarongo.

5: Pages--274 M-5 (ca. 1925) 1933 FO42 Rundi FO42

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Lake Ruhondo and Bahutu types. Region of the Mulera.

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A crossing by boat.

5: Pages--275 M-5 (ca. 1925) 1933 FO42 Rundi FO42

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A volcanic landscape. The Nyiragongo and its plume of smoke.

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Muchabura and Gahinga.

5: Pages--276 M-5 (ca. 1925) 1933 FO42 Rundi FO42

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Volcanic eruption of Nyamulagira. The photo was taken at night in 1907 at Nyundo mission.

Volcanic landscape. Lava from the last eruption which took place on the shores of Kivu (December 1912, January 1913).

5: Pages--277 M-5 (ca. 1925) 1933 FO42 Rundi FO42

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Panorama of Rulindo. The two groves which served as the last resting place for queen mothers can be seen on the heights.

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On the border between Ruanda and the Karagwe.

312 gradient, a deeper free surface of water is formed above the dam, which serves as a watering place for cattle.

482 In Ruanda all goods are transported by porters. Lake Kivu
501 is the only waterway that is used. It is navigated with large, primitive dugouts which are not sea-worthy but can carry very considerable loads. Otherwise boats are used only to ferry travelers across the rivers on main thoroughfares.

● 133

Fig. 53. Cushions for Carrying Loads, Mulera. (1/6 actual size. III 13093. 21 1/2 centimeters in diameter.)

The rivers of Ruanda, however, have navigable stretches which in the future, with the development of transportation, will undoubtedly be used. [167] Thus, for example, I am convinced that the Nyawarongo is navigable from Mount Ndisa to the confluence of the Mukungwa and even farther. On the Kissaka border, also, I confirmed the navigability of the Kagera. Likewise, the Kagera can be navigated from the mouth of the Ruvuvu to the bend of the Mpororo.

492 Beasts of burden are not as yet used in Ruanda, although the 20 to 25 donkeys in the country, used by Europeans, are very serviceable and thrive well.

The use of waterways and beasts of burden, however, takes for granted an increase in porters' wages and a development in trade which the porters now available will no longer be able to handle.

482 In contrast to the custom in the northwest Congo areas, burdens are carried on the head in Ruanda. It is only among the Bahunde in the west that we begin to see people carry burdens on their backs. It seems that the eastern boundary of this method of carrying packs entends from Lake Kivu across to the Rutshuru River and north, along the eastern boundary of the Bakondjo territory, to the east of Lake Edward.

7: Roscoe M-5 (1919-1920) 1924
FO42 Rundi FO42

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The red line indicates the route taken by the expedition—The places visited f
people Bakyiga—Bakunta on shore of L. Edward—Katwe and Fort Portal people
and L. Salisbury people Bateso—Mt Elgon people Bagesu and Basabei—Busoga

End plate - Section A

7: Roscoe M-5 (1919-1920) 1924
FO42 Rundi FO42

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-The places visited for investigation were: Ankole people Banyankole—Kigezi and Fort Portal people Bambwa and Bakonjo—Bunyoro people Banyoro—Soroti and Basabei—Busoga people Basoga.

[End plate - Section B]

9:Maquet E-5 (1949-1951)1961 FO42 Rundi FO42

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[P.6]

9:Maquet E-5 (1949-1951) 1961 FO42 Rundi FO42

CHAPTER I

THE COUNTRY AND ITS PEOPLE

1. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

THE Kingdom of Ruanda lies within latitudes 1° 20′ to 2° 50′ south and longitudes 28° 50′ to 30° 55′ east. Physically it is a part of the elongated highland zone extending at varying elevations from the Red Sea to Lake Nyasa. This East African highland zone is characterized by large blocks of upland and the giant cracks of the rift valley system.

Ruanda is situated on the western border of the central region of this zone. It is a high plateau in which numerous rivers cut deep valleys separating a multitude of hills. The main feature of Ruanda orography is the chain of mountains with an elevation from 2,250 to 3,000 metres (6,750 to 9,000 feet) which separates the Congo and Nile drainage basins. This has a north-south trend approximately fifteen to twenty-five miles east of Lake Kivu (elevation: 1,460 metres or 4,380 feet) and forms, with the northern part of the Ruzizi river, the western boundary of Ruanda. From this mountainous chain to the east, elevations fall gradually to the Kagera River Valley, the eastern limit of Ruanda. The greater part of the Kagera here consists of swamps which may be as much as sixteen miles broad. The elevation of the region along the Kagera is from 1,300 to 1,500 metres (3,900 to 4,500 feet).

The northern boundaries of the country are not as clearly defined by physical factors, except in the west by the Virunga volcanic massif including eight peaks, the highest of which, Karisimbi, reaches 4,507 metres (14,873 feet). The Akanyaru and Lua rivers—which form part of the southern border of the kingdom, separating it from its Burundi neighbour—cannot be considered as natural frontiers, as they are not difficult to cross.[1] Ruanda's relief, together with its central situation in Africa

[1] The present-day political boundaries of Ruanda do not include the whole territory which was politically and culturally part of the kingdom in the past. There are Ruanda populations in the north, in the Kivu Province of the Belgian Congo (between the actual border and Rutshuru), and in the Kigezi District of Uganda (along the actual border).

9:Maquet E-5 (1949-1951)1961 FO42 Rundi FO42

(about 1,000 miles from the two nearest sea-ports, Mombasa and Dar-es-Salaam), probably accounts for the country's long isolation from Arab and European contacts, in spite of its easily accessible frontiers in the north and south. Although slaves were occasionally sold to the African middlemen in touch with Arab traders operating in the neighbourhood of Ruanda, it seems that the traders themselves never penetrated the country. At all events Ruanda was never a regular place of supply. The first European reported to have been in the country was Count G. A. von Götzen, a German officer leading a scientific and military expedition across Africa from the Indian to the Atlantic Ocean. He stayed in Ruanda only for a few weeks, in 1894.

The interior highlands, which have been compared to the massif of Abyssinia and to the mountains of Bohemia, or even to Switzerland and Tibet, are not very large. Their longest north-south extent in a straight line is about 100 miles, the extent from west to east being about 140 miles. The area of present-day Ruanda is 26,338 square kilometres (10,166 square miles). In 1907 Professor Jan Czekanowski, a member of the Duke of Mecklenburg's expedition to Central Africa, estimated it to cover about 28,900 square kilometres.[2]

The climatic effects of equatorial latitude are mitigated by the elevation. In the Congo-Nile mountain chain the temperature may drop to freezing point, but the greater part of Ruanda enjoys a temperate climate. The average is about 20° C. (68° F.), and the maximal variations (which are greater between day and night than between the seasons) rarely exceed 10° C. (18° F.) above or under the average. In the eastern lower part the temperature is, of course, higher.

Similar distinctions must be made for rainfall in the high mountains of the west, the highlands of the middle country, and the Kagera lower region of the east. In the first region rainfall averages 1,250 mm. a year (50 inches), in the second it is between 1,250 and 1,000 mm. (50 and 40 inches) and in the third less than 1,000 mm. (40 inches).[3] These figures alone do not have very much bearing on soil fertility, as the significance of rainfall depends on other factors, such as volume and intensity of precipitations, declivity of ground, type of vegetation, and characteristics of the soil.

[2] Czekanowski, 1917, p. 114. [3] Ministère des Colonies, 1951b, p. 65.

9:Maquet E-5 (1949-1951) 1961 FO42 Rundi FO42

There is as much as a one-month range of variations in the dates of the rainy and dry seasons each year. The precipitations are very irregular. Sometimes for a few weeks there is heavy rainfall lasting ten or twelve hours followed by a few dry days, at other times there is a 2- or 3-hour shower every day. Besides this fundamental irregularity there is no uniformity throughout the country. Owing to the very uneven relief, neighbouring regions or even neighbouring groups of hills and valleys, may have quite dissimilar climates.

Although it is believed that the country was covered with forest in the remote past, now only three per cent. of the surface of Ruanda is woodland; even if savannah with trees is taken into account the figure is not brought up to more than 6·5 per cent.[4] At the beginning of the century the figures were almost certainly not higher, and very likely lower. Indeed, the policy of the Administration has been to attempt to protect by regulation the forests which were left and to promote the replanting of trees. The present-day typical Ruanda landscape, eucalyptus-covered hills and roads bordered by three or four lines of trees, is new. Fifty years ago the country had an even more denuded appearance than it has today.

The result of the scarcity of trees in a country of steep hills has been erosion. Torrential rainfall has washed off the more fertile top soil. The deterioration of the ground has been a long process which has not yet been reversed. The north-western part of Ruanda provides an exception to the general poverty. Here the soil is of volcanic origin, formed from recent lava, and rich. The land at the bottom of valleys everywhere is, of course, notably better than on the slopes.

A good top-soil is important not only for cultivation: allowing a slow infiltration of water, it helps to form subterranean watersheds situated not too deeply underground. A decrease in this top-soil has had the effect that some of these practically superficial water reserves which feed sources have drained away. I have been told more than once by old people that in such or such a place there was a water source when they were young. When digging a well now one has to go very deep.

These phenomena, erosion, impoverishment of soil, and drying up of sub-soil, are not to be attributed only to the action of the purely natural factors mentioned (the heavy rainfalls and the

[4] Ministère des Colonies, 1951b, p. 331.

9:Maquet E-5 (1949-1951) 1961 FO42 Rundi FO42

PLATE I

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The Virunga volcanoes

[Facing P. 22]

9:Maquet E-5 (1949-1951) 1961 FO42 Rundi FO42

of their different nature which entitled them to rule and as a guarantee against social mobility: because a Hutu was usually not endowed with the Tutsi physical characteristics he could not easily pass the line.

Two other important elements related to the political power system of Ruanda were its extent and its orographic configuration. The country was not very large, about 100 miles from north to south and 140 from west to east. But its relief was that of a maze of hills, many of them very steep, separated by deep valleys. Moreover, it was traversed, from north to south, by a chain of mountains which separate the Congo and Nile basins and is covered with very dense forests inhabited by elephants, leopards, and buffalo.

A centralized government requires good communications. The king must remain, as much as possible, in constant contact with all the regions of his country; tribute must reach the capital regularly, armies must arrive rapidly in any place threatened by an external enemy; local authorities must not be left isolated lest they become too independent. The small extent of Ruanda was indeed an asset from this point of view but this was largely neutralized by the relief which made communications extremely difficult. Notwithstanding these unfavourable physical factors, the mwami had been able to establish and maintain his political network connecting all the subordinate authorities of Ruanda to himself.

These five elements are among those which more significantly affected the domination system of the Tutsi. They are the only ones. Three of them refer to the social power of the Tutsi caste (type of material culture, Tutsi-Hutu ratio, physical appearance), while two others (economy with a small surplus, area, and relief) were operative rather in the sphere of political power. Only two of these background facts (demographic ratio and physical type) were favourable to the domination pattern whereas one (absence of a different material equipment apart from cattle) was neutral and two (lack of a great surplus, geographic configuration) were obstacles.

2. THE SOCIOLOGICAL PROBLEM OF DOMINATION

Within the limits set by these conditions external to the social system, Tutsi had to adapt their organization in order to keep the dominant position for their caste and its rulers. Their problem

10:Albert E-5 (1956-1957)1963
FO42 Rundi FO42

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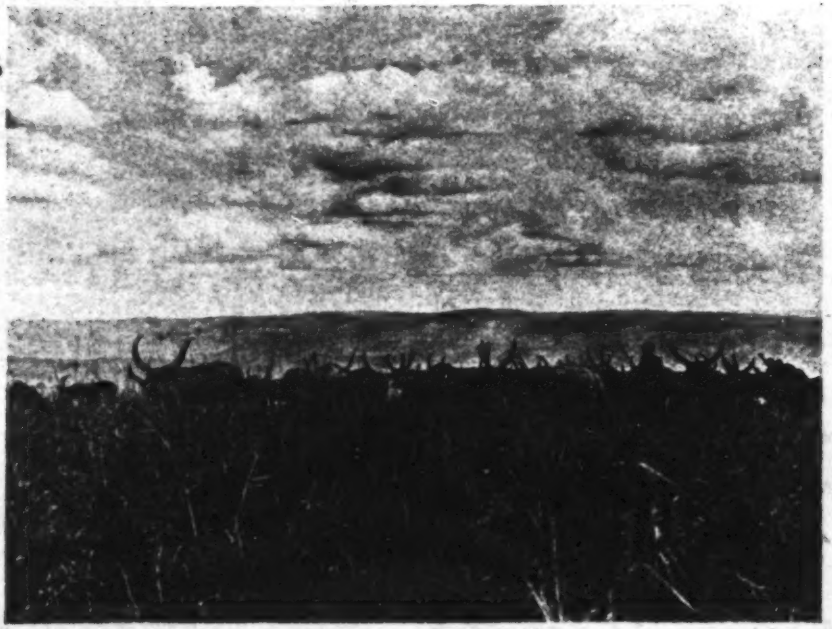

XV and XVI. Burundi landscapes.

[Following p. 215, B]